

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for supplying breathable gas, the apparatus including:

a relatively rigid external housing;

at least one noise producing component internal to the housing, said at least one noise producing component including an electric motor blower and at least a first muffler; and

a thin flexible enclosure substantially sealed around ~~each~~ said at least one noise producing component.

2. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material.

3. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plastic material is Cosmothene F221-1 or polyethylene.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure includes an opening adapted to allow passage of each said noise producing component into ~~the~~ an interior of the flexible enclosure.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the opening is sealable or closable by adhesive tape.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure includes one or more apertures to allow breathable gas into and out of each said noise producing component.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~5~~1, wherein the noise producing ~~components include a blower,~~component further includes a second muffler, said first muffler defining an inlet muffler and said second muffler defines an outlet muffler, wherein atmospheric air ~~being~~is drawn through the inlet muffler before entering the blower and the resulting pressurized air passing through the outlet muffler after leaving the blower, and the enclosure includes a first ~~said~~aperture substantially sealable with respect to ~~the~~an exterior of ~~the~~an inlet of the inlet muffler and a second ~~said~~aperture substantially sealable or engagable with respect to ~~the~~an exterior of ~~the~~an outlet of the outlet muffler.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the enclosure includes a third ~~said~~aperture for passage of one or more wires for transmitting power or control signals to an electric motor and/or other electrical components, the third aperture being substantially closed or sealable relative to the exterior of the wire(s).

9. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling ~~the~~an apparatus ~~claimed in claim 4~~for supplying breathable gas, the method comprising:

providing ~~the~~ at least one noise producing component in a sub-assembly;
placing the sub-assembly into the interior of ~~the~~ a flexible enclosure through an opening therein;
substantially sealing or closing the opening; and
subsequently, placing the flexible enclosure within ~~the~~ an external housing.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material designed to dampen noise from said at least one noise producing component.

11. (New) An apparatus for supplying breathable gas, the apparatus including:
a relatively rigid external housing;
at least one noise producing component internal to the housing; and
a flexible bag-like plastic material enclosure to receive said at least one noise producing component.

12. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plastic material is Cosmothene F221-1 or polyethylene.

13. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the flexible enclosure includes an opening adapted to allow passage of said at least one noise producing component into the interior of the flexible enclosure.

14. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the opening is sealable or closable by adhesive tape.

15. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the flexible enclosure includes entry and exit apertures to allow breathable gas into and out of the enclosure.

16. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at least one noise producing component includes a blower, and at least one of an inlet muffler and/or an outlet muffler.

17. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plastic material of the flexible enclosure is designed and structured to dampen noise from said at least one noise producing component.

18. (New) An apparatus for supplying breathable gas, the apparatus including:
a relatively rigid external housing;
at least one noise producing component internal to the housing; and
a thin flexible enclosure provided for said at least one noise producing component, said enclosure being substantially independent of the external housing.

19. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material.

20. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the plastic material is Cosmothene F221-1 or polyethylene.

21. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein a shape of the enclosure is substantially independent of a shape of the external housing.

22. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the shape of the enclosure is dissimilar to the shape of the external housing.

23. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the enclosure comprises a bag-like structure having at least one main opening to initially receive the at least one noise producing component.

24. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the at least one noise producing component includes a blower to generate pressurized gas in the range of 4-20 cm H₂O.

25. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the enclosure includes a first aperture substantially sealable with respect to an exterior of an inlet of an inlet muffler and a second aperture substantially sealable with respect to an exterior of an outlet of an outlet muffler.

26. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material designed to dampen noise from said at least one noise producing component.

27. (New) An apparatus for supplying breathable gas, including:
a relatively rigid external housing including at least one compartment;
an electric motor provided at least partially within the at least one compartment; and
a noise suppressing member consisting essentially of a thin flexible enclosure provided to
said electric motor.

28. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the flexible enclosure is
bag-like.

29. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, further comprising at least one
muffler within the enclosure and operatively connected to the electric motor.

30. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the compartment occupies
only a sub-portion of an internal volume of the external housing, and the flexible enclosure
occupies a volume defined by the sub-portion.